

Delegation of Authority  
Black Jack Ridge Fire  
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
Northwestern Land Office, Plains Unit

Effective \_\_\_\_ hours on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007, I hereby delegate authority for the management of the Black Jack Ridge Incident to Dewey Arnold (Aaron King Type III IC trainee), Incident Commander for the Type III IMT. You have full authority and responsibility for managing the fire suppression activities within the framework of law, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Policy, and direction provided in the attached briefing and guidelines. This incident is a wildland fire burning approximately 4 miles West of Plains, MT in Sanders County.

I expect suppression efforts to be executed in accordance with the selected Alternative "A" in the Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) that has been prepared for this incident. You may be involved in updating the WFSA if necessary, and I also expect a daily review of the WFSA during this incident. The suppression cost is estimated to be \$100,000.00. If the fire remains within the selected alternative boundary you are authorized to spend up to fifteen (15) percent more than this amount without further changes to the WFSA or a re-delegation of authority.

Specific Objectives for this incident are:

1. Firefighter and Public safety should be given the highest priority in your management of this incident. This should be analyzed through each of your planning processes and whenever tactics may change during the operational period. The safety analysis must be documented for each operational planning period. Use of ICS-215A or something similar is acceptable.
2. Protect all threatened structures and personal property if it can be done safely.
3. I expect you and your crews to implement an aggressive suppression strategy utilizing direct attack where and whenever safe to do so. Take advantage of natural features such as breaks in fuels, topographic features, or changes in weather. Decisions that deviate from direct attack must be made with firefighter safety as the foremost consideration.
4. There will be a need to monitor the operational and logistical trigger points that would make it necessary to order a Type II Incident Management Team (IMT). The following evaluation points will be used to determine if ordering a Type II IMT is necessary.
  - Logistics: over 150 people assigned to the incident or diminished capabilities to provide the needed logistical support to meet the needs of assigned personnel (food, supplies, equipment).
  - Operations/Containment:
    - Less than 50% containment by the end of the operational period on 7/18/2007.
    - Less than 75% containment by the end of the operational period on 7/19/2007.
    - Failure to achieve full containment by the end of the operational period on 7/20/2007.
  - Fire exceeds acreage limitation for the selected WFSA alternative.
  - If the aviation operation exceeds the IMT's span of control. (More than 3 helicopters, or loss of air attack resource.)

- Complexity analysis suggests the need for a Type II IMT.

5. Resources assigned to this incident may need to be made available to help support initial attack on higher priority fires within the Zone. It is imperative that good anchor points be established from the start so that limited resources may continue with successful suppression efforts on the incident.
6. Please give special consideration to firefighter safety especially in regards to work/rest guidelines (2:1 ratio).
7. Maintain contact with appropriate agencies, elected officials, business leaders and members of the public. Your personnel must be sensitive to the impacts to private property and adjacent Plum Creek Timber Lands, and other private industrial lands. Utilize local businesses and individuals when feasible to achieve incident objectives.
8. Cost containment is a high priority for the responsible Agencies. To meet this expectation, Glenda Rothacher is being assigned to the incident as Incident Business Advisor. She will assist you with securing contracts if needed for additional facilities, resources, or supplies. She will review your daily expenditure reports and provide guidance to you concerning cost efficiency measures. She will review your finance documentation and provide guidance to ensure your records are current, complete, and accurate.

Property and equipment accountability standards must be followed according to State policy. The loss tolerance ratio that you are directed to achieve for accountable property is no more than 6%. You are also expected to track miscellaneous fire equipment to ensure that items delivered to drop points or locations on the fire line are accounted for and not misplaced or lost. You are expected to track property loaned to cooperators and recover the property when the cooperator is demobilized from the incident. I encourage you to document cost efficiency measures you considered and implemented during the course of the incident.

9. The criteria for turning the incident back to the Plains Unit would include the following:
  - Fire contained and controlled through one operational burning period
  - Mopped up 3 chains in from control lines
  - Spot fires mopped up 100% and verified by cold trailing
10. Provide documented justification for keeping any “high dollar” resources assigned to the incident that have not been utilized over the course of one operation period.
11. All equipment used on the incident is to have a current inspection and complete documentation of the inspection will be a part of the final fire package.
12. Public information will be coordinated with the DNRC Westside PIO, Rob Harper, and managed through the Plains Unit Office. If any media shows up on scene, please direct them to the Plains Unit Office.
13. Rehabilitate fire suppression related damages in a timely manner. (Resource advisors from the protection/jurisdictional Agency(s) will be available to assist with this planning.) In order to limit the spread and introduction of noxious weeds, all equipment

coming from outside the geographic area must be washed and inspected prior to arriving on the incident.

14. Manage the human resources assigned to the fire in a manner that promotes a positive and harassment free work environment and creates a “no tolerance” atmosphere for harassment, alcohol, or illegal drug use. All personnel assigned shall be treated with dignity and respect.
15. Aviation safety is a high priority. Risk Assessments (weighing the risk against the benefit of the mission and deciding whether the risks are acceptable) will be completed on all aviation missions in support of this suppression effort.
16. The final fire package should follow the attached NRCG standard format. Any items that are missing or incomplete should be listed on a separate document for the DNRC.
17. Provide training opportunities for Agency personnel to strengthen our organizational capabilities and complete training assignment.

We are pleased to have you working on this incident.

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Shawn Thomas  
Plains Unit Manager, Acting  
Northwestern Land Office, DNRC

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Date/Time

I accept this delegation:

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Dewey Arnold  
Incident Commander

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Date/Time

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Aaron King  
Incident Commander Trainee

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Date/Time

Contact information:

Shawn Thomas -826-3851, 249-2309h, 250-1820c  
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